



UNDERSTANDING YOUR INSURANCE

Are You Protected From Disaster?

(NAPS)—Devastating floods occur throughout the U.S. every year, and their frequency is on the rise. One reason: over-development and leveling of forests have reduced the land's natural ability to absorb excess water. Are you protected from such a disaster?

Flooding causes more than \$2 billion in property damage each year, and losses due to flooding are not covered under most homeowners and business policies. However, flood insurance is available to protect homes and businesses and their contents in communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Purchasing your own flood insurance is far better protection than depending on Federal disaster assistance which is available only if a disaster is Federally declared. If you have a flood insurance policy, you can be reimbursed for all your covered losses, even if a disaster is not Federally declared. In contrast, Federal disaster assistance is often a loan—repayable in full—with interest!

With a flood insurance policy all you have to pay is one annual premium. Then, if you suffer losses due to flooding, you will be reimbursed for your covered loss-



Are you protected from disaster? One important way to be prepared: flood insurance.

es, and you'll never have to pay a nickel back.

Flood insurance is affordable. The average flood insurance premium costs about \$300 a year for an average of \$98,000 of coverage. However, paying back a \$50,000 disaster home loan, for example, will cost an average of \$300 a month—for an average repayment period of 18.5 years.

Call your insurance company or agent to find out if your community participates in the NFIP. If it does, as for details about how to buy flood insurance. Policies go into effect 30 days after a policy is purchased. Call 1-800-427-9662 or visit the Web site at www.fema.gov.